

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 31, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 24, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Oil Spill Response (Chicago River), Former Montgomery Wards
Catalog Warehouse Center, Chicago, Illinois**

On May 10, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency Response Branch responded to an oil spill at the former Montgomery Wards catalog warehouse center in Chicago, Illinois. The former warehouse is now utilized for business offices and residential use. Looking Glass Networks, Inc. (Looking Glass), as one of the tenants of the building, has an emergency generator on the roof. In the early morning of May 10, 2002, the emergency generator was run as part of a normal maintenance check. The diesel fuel oil tank was overfilled during the run. Approximately 670 gallons were spilled onto the roof. The fuel either remained on the roof or ran down the roof drain into the Chicago River, which is located immediately west of the building.

Looking Glass hired a private contractor to recover the fuel. The U.S. Coast Guard shutdown a section of the Chicago River once the spill was reported and kept the section closed until the fuel in the River was located and boomed off. The boomed oil was recovered (5000 gallons of oil and water) by vacuum truck. In addition, 250 gallons of oil was recovered from the roof. The oil recovery operations were completed by 9:00 p.m. on May 10, 2002.

Contact: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

Unilateral Order Issued (Removal Initiated), Former Electro Finishers Site, Chicago, Illinois

On November 26, 2001, U.S. EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to a potential responsible party (PRP) requiring him to conduct a removal action to address onsite contamination at the Former Electro Finishers site located in Chicago, Illinois. On February 6, 2002, the PRP's attorney responded to the UAO by providing a letter of intent to comply with the UAO. On February 19, 2002, a work plan was submitted to On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien. On March 14, 2002, OSC Charles Gebien disapproved the work plan, which did not address off-site contamination nor did it include an expeditious schedule for completion of the work. On March 22, 2002, OSC Charles Gebien conditionally approved the revised work plan requiring investigation of off-site contamination and prior approval of any subsurface remediation work performed at the site. The removal started on May 7, 2002.

Contacts: Arlene Lilly (312-353-1907)
Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

Administrative Order By Consent (Clean up), Old American Zinc Plant, Fairmont City, Illinois

On April 29, 2002, the Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) for the Old American Zinc site became effective after the 30-day Federal Register public comment period expired without comment. The Old American Zinc Plant site is located in Fairmont City, Illinois. The site is a former zinc smelting facility consisting of approximately 132 acres of industrial property. In addition, there are an unknown number of residential and commercial properties surrounding the site that show indications that they are contaminated with high levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium, and mercury.

Two potentially responsible parties have agreed to begin the clean up of the contaminated properties beginning in June 2002 under the direction of On-Scene Coordinator Mike Harris. The clean up will include the testing of soils, and excavation and removal of contaminated soils from commercial property and residential yards that are adjacent to and in the vicinity of the site. The remedial program is planning investigative activities for the remainder of the site.

Contacts: William Ryczek (312-886-7184)
Mike Harris (312-886-0760)
Tom Turner (312-886-6613)

Unilateral Administrative Order (Clean up), Getzen Musical Instruments Site, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

On September 26, 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requested that the U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Removal Branch provide assistance to assess the threat posed by the Getzen site. On May 3, 2002, U.S. EPA Region 5 issued a Unilateral Order to the potentially responsible parties, two former owners and operators of the Getzen Musical Instruments Company.

The Getzen site is located in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. The Getzen site is an abandoned metal plating facility that manufactured and plated musical instruments. Plating operations at the facility included silver plating, copper strike plating, nickel, chrome, and potash base electro plating. For almost twenty years effluent from the plating operations at the site was discharged into a seepage lagoon on the site. The potentially responsible parties have already submitted a clean up plan for the site and expect to begin the removal of contaminants from the site soils in June 2002. U.S. EPA estimated that site clean up costs to be approximately \$780,000 if U.S. EPA were to complete the clean up work. On-Scene Coordinator Charlie Gebien will oversee the clean up of the site and removal of hazardous waste from the site.

Contacts: William Ryczek (312-886-7184)
Connie Puchalski (312-886-6719)
Charlie Gebien (312-353-7645)

Unilateral Administrative Order Issued (Clean up), Diamond Shamrock Corp. (Painesville Works) Proposed Superfund Site, Lake County, Ohio

On April 23, 2002, U.S. EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to six potentially responsible parties for the Diamond Shamrock Corp. (Painesville Works) Proposed National Priorities List site (Study Area 2). The UAO requires the parties to perform a removal action at the Coking Plant portion of the facility, located in Painesville Township, Lake County, Ohio. Work required under the UAO includes addressing coal tar wastes, ignitable wastes, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from numerous above-ground storage tanks, waste piles, drums, and containers. One party has submitted a Notice to Comply and has begun to submit the work plans required under the Order. Another party requested a conference pursuant to the UAO; its decision to comply is pending. The six other parties did not respond. The cost of the clean up is estimated at approximately \$730,000.

Contacts: Debora Haidar (440-250-1744)
Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

Consent Agreement (Recovery of Past Costs), Environmental Waste Resources Site, Coal City, Illinois

The Environmental Waste Resources Corporation (EWR) facility in Coal City, Illinois, was a hazardous waste treatment and storage facility. In March 1998, U.S. EPA conducted an emergency response at the site, overpacking nine leaking 55-gallon drums, investigating semi-trailers containing empty and partially full drums, and replacing missing bolts on a storage tank man-way. In December 1998, 21 generators of waste to the site signed an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) to conduct a time-critical removal. Under the AOC, the generators removed over 300,000 gallons of liquid and solid waste, 928 drums, 257 containers of laboratory hazardous substances, and 48 compressed gas cylinders from the site between April and September 1999.

In April 2000, the generators reimbursed U.S. EPA for \$163,393 in oversight costs for the time-critical removal. On April 25, 2002, U.S. EPA entered into a consent agreement with the 21 generators to resolve their liability for past costs incurred during the site assessment and emergency response at the site. Under that agreement, the generators agreed to reimburse U.S. EPA for \$136,457 of the \$243,925 in past costs. The settlement considers the orphan share of now-bankrupt EWR, which was owner at the time of the removal and also an operator and generator. The total costs at the site, adding past and oversight costs, were approximately \$407,000. U.S. EPA will recover approximately \$300,000, or 75 percent of its response costs.

Contacts: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)
Sally Jansen (312-353-9046)
Craig Melodia (312-353-8870)

Removal Assessment, J.R. Circuits Site, Wauconda, Illinois

On May 20, 2002, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Sam Borries and Charlie Gebien responded to a request for assistance by the Wauconda, Illinois, Fire Department in assessing drums, vats, and other containers at the abandoned J.R. Circuits facility in Wauconda, Illinois. According to a 1994 site investigation report, the facility formerly manufactured and assembled printed circuit boards. U.S. EPA met Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) representatives (Don Klopke, Ed Osowski, and Mark Retzlaff) and Village of Wauconda representatives (Fire Chief Dato, Fire Marshall Schwarz, and Building Commissioner William Metes). A visual assessment revealed 12 55-gallon drums, 20 15-gallon containers, 30 5-gallon containers, 3 open top vats, and dozens more open and closed containers of various sizes. Illinois EPA noted many of the open containers and vats had a pH of zero. The roof had collapsed in several locations allowing rain to enter. Several areas on the outside of the building foundation were noted to have a blue stain from materials found

inside the facility. U.S. EPA is scheduling a full site assessment utilizing the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) Contractor within the next week or two. If materials are observed to migrate out of the facility before assessment activities are completed, emergency response activities may be required to stabilize and secure site materials. Suspected contaminants include but are not limited to corrosives, flammables, copper, nickel, lead, and tin.

Contacts: Sam Borries (312-353-2886)
Charlie Gebien (312-353-7645)

Removal Assessment Requested, IWI Site, Summit, Illinois

On May 16, 2002, the Emergency Response Branch responded to a citizen complaint regarding the IWI site (IWI) in Summit, Illinois. IWI which is a bankrupt abandoned chemical recovery company had a fire in the early morning of May 14, 2002. A portion of the site was destroyed in the fire. However, the largest building was not destroyed.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Fred Micke met with the complainant and walked around the site. Stacked drums and chemical containers were found throughout the facility. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) was contacted by OSC Fred Micke and Branch management. Based on the above information, Illinois EPA has requested that U.S. EPA conduct a removal assessment at IWI.

Contact: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

Polychlorinated Biphenyl Investigation, St. Clair Shores, Michigan

On May 14, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn attended the Macomb County Water Quality Board meeting. OSC Jim Augustyn provided a brief presentation on the status of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) investigation to the members of the Board and concerned citizens. Progress of the investigation was discussed, as well as a proposed time line for the release of the Assessment Report. OSC Jim Augustyn informed the Board Members that the data validation process was approximately 50 percent complete and that the Assessment Report would most likely be available by the end of July. In addition, OSC Jim Augustyn informed the Water Quality Board that the U.S. EPA was working with City, County, and State agencies to coordinate a clean up strategy and that a limited removal action would most likely take place later in the Summer to early Fall.

Contacts: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)
Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Deficiencies Abated, Safety Inspection, Superfund Division Mobile Laboratory

The Superfund Division has implemented all the recommendations that were made as a result of the December 19, 2001, Safety Inspection for the Superfund Division Mobile Laboratory. The final abatement status report, which includes all the deficiencies that have been abated, was sent to the Regional Health & Safety Team.

The Superfund Division is committed to improving the health and safety of its employees in the workplace.

Contacts: Afif Marouf (312-353-5550)
Jacqueline Dillard (312-353-8730)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Spill Prevention Seminars For Marinas Conducted, Traverse City and Detroit, Michigan

On May 6 and 7, 2002, Barb Carr, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Coordinator, conducted seminars for marina compliance with the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation (40 CFR 112) in Traverse City and Detroit, Michigan. These seminars are part of a larger project which focuses on reducing oil spills at marinas in the Great Lakes and all of the Region 5 States. The project's main emphasis is to educate marinas, most of which are small business owners, about the local, State, and Federal regulations that pertain to them. Marina owners were made aware of what would be expected if their facility was randomly selected for a compliance inspection this Summer. Marinas pose a special threat of a discharge of oil because of their proximity to the waters of the U.S.

Marine Safety Office (MSO) staff from the Sault Ste. Marie U.S. Coast Guard station spoke at Traverse City and MSO staff from Detroit spoke at the Detroit meeting. Other invited speakers were the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Storage Tank Division, and the Pollution Incident Prevention Program; and, the Boat U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water.

A survey of the attendees indicated that 70 percent did not know about the Oil Pollution Prevention rule before they attended the workshop; 98 percent indicated they felt more prepared to prevent

spills as a result of this workshop; and, 85 percent said they learned something that would cause them to make certain physical changes at their marina.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)
Ting Wu (312-886-7178)
Tien Yang (312-886-0850)

Unannounced Exercises, Cincinnati, Ohio

On May 15, 2002, staff from the Oil Planning and Response Section conducted unannounced drill exercises in Cincinnati, Ohio. Letters went to all facilities in the metropolitan Cincinnati area letting them know which week U.S. EPA would be in Cincinnati and that U.S. EPA would be conducting two exercises. The letter allows for greater preparedness and all of the facilities review their plans, check their records, and usually conduct a table top exercise in anticipation of being chosen. Facilities exercised were Southside River Rail, Inc., and Cognis, a non-petroleum oil facility. Neither facility was able to successfully complete the exercise due to high current and volume in the waterways. They will be developing plans to deal with high water conditions as the outcome of these exercises.

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)
Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

Meeting, Clean Up CO-OP, Ohio River, Cincinnati, Ohio

On May 16, 2002, staff from the Oil Planning and Response Section met with the clean up CO-OP for the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio. This group includes the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies, the United States Coast Guard, County Emergency Management, Cincinnati Fire Department, commercial clean up contractors, and facilities. There was a presentation by Ohio Spill Planning and Emergency Response Association (OSPORA). Interestingly, two out of three items OSPORA was touting as available through it's organization, the Oil Spill Exercise Generator and the Inland Sensitivity Atlases were developed by the Oil Planning and Response Section. U.S. EPA also gave a brief overview of our presence in Cincinnati and some of the assistance we could give them, as well as some of the activities we would like them to participate in. This meeting set the groundwork for their meeting next month when On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Steve Renninger will be the main speaker.

Contacts: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)
Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Presentation, C.A.R.E. Committee, Northwest Indiana, Hammond, Indiana

On May 16, 2002, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Betty Lavis and Charlie Brasher gave a presentation to the Citizens' Advisory for the Remediation of the Environment (C.A.R.E.) Committee meeting to update local officials and committee members on U.S. EPA's removal actions and projects on the Indiana Harbor Canal (IHC) in East Chicago, Indiana. The presentation included a historical overview of oil and chemical contamination in the IHC and adjacent areas, and a comparison with current conditions (oil content in the sediments and shoreline currently as high as 35 percent). The OSCs also discussed: 1) on-going removal and enforcement actions, such as the recently completed abandoned pipeline removal and the pending settlement with Atlantic Richfield/British Petroleum for the Energy Cooperative Inc. site; 2) the results of weekly OSC inspections of the canal by boat and land; 3) the status of on-going pilot projects evaluating cleanup options for the shoreline, such as bioremediation, phyto-remediation, and filterpress technology; and, 4) the tentative results of a cooperative project with U.S. EPA's Water Division and the State of Indiana to identify all 126 outfalls to the IHC and evaluate their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit status (only 8 permits identified). Approximately twenty-five officials and citizens attended the meeting. The C.A.R.E. Committee members expressed their surprise and appreciation at the extent of U.S. EPA involvement and commitment to cleaning up the IHC and asked for a copy of the presentation for future reference.

Contacts: Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)
Charles Brasher (312-886-9176)

Meeting, Not-for-Profit, Brownfields Legislation, Chicago, Illinois

On May 2, 2002, Deborah Orr met with staff from the Delta Institute at their offices in the Monadnock Building. Deborah Orr provided an overview of the new Brownfields legislation and responded to questions about the opportunities and impacts the legislation presents.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Meeting, Midwest Hazardous Substances Research Center, West Lafayette, Indiana

On May 14-15, 2002, Deborah Orr, Bri Bill (Office of Public Affairs), and Steve Ostrodka attended the kick-off meeting for the Midwest Hazardous Substances Research Center at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Center received funds from the U.S. EPA to support research on low cost non-evasive

remediation technologies and to provide technical outreach services to communities and Native Americans impacted by Superfund and Brownfields sites. Bri Bill and Deborah Orr will serve on the Outreach Advisory Board. Steve Ostrodka is a member of the Science Advisory Board. Deborah Orr gave the attendees an overview of the new Brownfields legislation and answered questions from researchers and board members about the legislation.

Contacts: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
 Bri Bill (312-353-6646)
 Steve Ostrodka (312-886-3011)

SPCC Presentation, Department of Defense/Michigan Pollution Prevention (P2) Alliance Meeting, Battle Creek, Michigan

On May 16, 2002, Shitien Yang, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Inspector, was invited to give a presentation in the quarterly meeting of Department of Defense (DOD)/Michigan P2 Alliance. This is part of the Region 5 SPCC Outreach Program which aims to assist the oil storage facility owners in better understanding and compliance with the spill prevention program.

The DOD/Michigan P2 Alliance is a group consisting of U.S. EPA Region 5, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, various DOD installations in Michigan, and Michigan Army and Air National Guard facilities. The main purpose of the group is to learn and share any information and techniques regarding pollution prevention, such that all the members can benefit cost-effectively from each others' successful practices in managing their environmental programs.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)
 Shitien Yang (312-886-0850)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
 Barry Breen (OECA)
 Steve Luftig (OSWER)
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